

Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

February 28, 2003

The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004

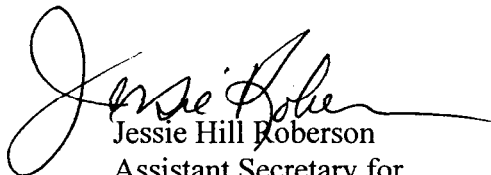
Dear Mr. Chairman:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to your February 6, 2003 letter concerning issues related to proper sealing and inerting of Multi-Canister Overpacks (MCO) at the Hanford Spent Nuclear Fuel Project. The attached report from the Hanford Site addresses your concerns on the following:

- Proper sealing/inerting of MCOs prior to welding,
- Lifting stresses on mechanical seals during movement of the canisters have received proper analyses, and
- The disposition of previously welded MCOs is satisfactory.

We welcome this opportunity to receive your technical input and guidance and to answer your concerns on matters of importance to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 586-7709 or Paul Golan, Chief Operating Officer, Office of Environmental Management at (202) 586-0738.


Jessie Hill Roberson
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

Attachment

cc: Mark Whitaker, S-3.1
Keith Klein, RL



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